

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed under 37 CFR §1.53(d) on 8/7/08. Applicants have properly set forth the RCE, which has been entered into the application, and an examination on the merits follows herewith. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9-12, 15-17, the cancellation of claims 4, 7, 8, 13-14 and the addition of new claims 21-24. All pending claims have been rejected in view of the prior art disclosed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 15-17 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 7,180,638 B1 (Hou et al.), herein referred to as Hou.

Referring to claim 1, Hou discloses a multifunction device comprising a communication module configured to communicate with a server over a network (column 1, lines 7-9 and column 2, lines 18-20). Hou discloses a controller module configured to control the operation of the multifunction device and interface with a

Art Unit: 2173

business application executing on the server (column 2, lines 21-29). Hou discloses that the server provides a business application interface to the multifunction device for interfacing to the business application (column 2, lines 21-23). Hou discloses a user interface module configured to receive the business application interface from the server and provide input and output fields for the business application interface to a user for user input (column 2, lines 18-23 and Figure 4). Hou discloses a source interface module configured to receive input data from at least one document data source (column 2, lines 47-50). Hou discloses that the controller module further configured to transmit the input data from the at least one document data source and the user input to the business application executing on the server (column 2, lines 41-50). Hou discloses a target interface module configured to output the input data from the at least one document data source and the user input as processed document data (column 2, lines 50-53).

Referring to claim 3, Hou discloses a plurality of application integration modules configured to interface with a specific business application executing on the server (Figure 2).

Referring to claim 5, Hou discloses that the user interface module is further configured to allow the user to customize the business application interface (column 5, lines 12-17).

Referring to claim 6, Hou discloses further comprising a scanning device configured to transmit document data to the source interface (column 4, lines 1-6).

Referring to claim 9, Hou discloses that the target module is configured to output the processed document data as a facsimile (column 4, lines 1-6).

Referring to claim 10, Hou discloses that the target module is further configured to output the processed document data as an e-mail (column 1, lines 32-35).

Referring to claim 11, Hou discloses that the target module is further configured to output the processed document data to a printer on the multifunction device (column 4, lines 1-6).

Referring to claim 15, Hou discloses a computer network system comprising a server connected to a network and configured to provide business application interfaces to a multifunction device for interfacing to business applications executing on the server (column 1, lines 7-9 and column 2, lines 18-20). Hou discloses a user interface module within the multifunction device configured to communicate with a plurality of multifunction devices over the network (Figure 2). Hou discloses a facsimile module within the multifunction device, configured to send facsimiles (column 4, lines 36-40). Hou discloses an e-mail module within the multifunction device, configured to send e-mails (column 9, line 66-column 10, line 3). Hou discloses a controller module within the multifunction device configured to control the operation of the multifunction device and interface with the business applications executing on the server (Figure 3 and column 5, lines 4-23). Hou discloses that the user interface module within the multifunction device further configured to receive the business application interfaces from the server and provide input and output fields for the business application interfaces to a user for user inputs (column 2, lines 18-23, Figures 4 and 5). Hou

Art Unit: 2173

discloses a source interface module within the multifunction device configured to receive input data from at least one document data source (column 2, lines 47-50). Hou discloses that the controller module within the multifunction device further configured to transmit the input data from the at least one document data source and the user inputs to the business applications executing on the server (column 2, lines 41-50).

Referring to claim 16, Hou disclose that the facsimile module comprises a facsimile apparatus configured to communicate with the server over the network (Figure 3).

Referring to claim 17, Hou disclose that the e-mail module comprises an e-mail server configured to communicate with the server over the network (column 9, line 66-column 10, line 3).

Referring to claim 21, Hou discloses that the user interface module is further configured to modify the business application interface based on an identity of the user (column 5, lines 12-17).

Referring to claim 22, Hou discloses that the user interface module is further configured to receive programs from the server based on the identity of the user, and wherein the programs are operable to modify the operation of the multifunction device (column 5, lines 8-63).

Referring to claim 23, Hou discloses that the user interface module is further configured to modify the business application interface based on an identity of the user (column 5, lines 12-17).

Art Unit: 2173

Referring to claim 24, Hou discloses that the user interface module is further configured to receive programs from the server based on the identity of the user, and wherein the programs are operable to modify the operation of the multifunction device (column 5, lines 8-63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hou and U. S. Patent No. 5,361,134 (Hu et al.), herein referred to as Hu.

Referring to claim 12, Hou does not disclose that the user interface module is further configured to interface with a touch screen to allow the user input. Hu discloses interfacing with a touch screen to allow the user input (column 4, lines 57-61). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Hu interfacing with a touch screen to allow the user input. As Hu discloses, a touch screen is a known form of user input that one skilled in the art uses to input data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Hu interfacing with a touch screen to allow the user input.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 8/7/08 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doon Chow can be reached on (571) 272-7767.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Art Unit: 2173

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Namitha Pillai
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